Mr. L. Fletcher Prouty
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5/31/89

Dear Fletch,

Jim Lesar has just sent me what I do not recall seeing before, Pierre Salinger's Sunday N.Y. Times story of 2/5/89, "Gaps in the Cuban Missile Crisis Story."

Several things in it interest me and I write to ask if you have copies of what he refers to or have any recollections.

"For reasons that remain a mystery," RFK "warned two days after the Bay of Pigs that the failed attack might lead to the deployment of Soviet missiles in Cuba."

He refers to a recently declassified report "by the commander in chief of the Atlantic forces, Adm. Robert L. Dennison. He said that he received a memorandum from Mr. McNamara on Oct. 6 telling the Joint Chiefs of Staff to start effecting Directives 314 and 316, both of them contingency plans for an invasion of Cuba."

I do not remember ever reading that Bobby forecast the introduction of Soviet missiles and I am certain this is not in any of the administration honcho books, like Sorensen's, Schlesinger's, Hilsman's., etc. Or Bobby's own.

I do not, off the top of the head, think that this has to be significant but his reasons might be.

The alleged Dennison alert of 10/5 is consistent with what I've long believed, that there was earlier confirmation of the reports of missiles in Cuba and this confirmation was kept secret, including from JFK.

At the time The Pentagon Papers appeared I did not have the funds for more than the single paperback volume or the time for such editions as Gravel's. So, these directives may have been public and I was ignorant of it.

I am aware that the JCS could have been prompted by the persisting and unconfirmed reports of missiles in Cuba but I do not interpret Salinger's writing to mean to suggest this. So I'm interested in those directives and what prompted them.

Salinger also says that Operation Mongoose was the JFK administrations. Of course, there is no way of saying this is not true because the president is always responsible for the policies and acts of his administration. But according to a few of those records the CIA sent me only six people in the entire world, all six ranking CIA officials, knew anything at all about Mongoose, unless as is possible, I am confusing this with the CIA's mafia plots against Castro. I think maybe I am.

The other things above do interest me, if you can shed any light.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold